

To: Enck, Judith[Enck.Judith@epa.gov]
From: Matthews, Joan
Sent: Mon 1/4/2016 5:27:01 PM
Subject: Fwd: PFOA in Hoosick Falls and other places nearby
[Saint Gobain EPA.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Pabst, Douglas" <Pabst.Douglas@epa.gov>
Date: January 4, 2016 at 8:58:23 AM EST
To: "Matthews, Joan" <Matthews.Joan@epa.gov>, "Gratz, Jeff" <Gratz.Jeff@epa.gov>, "Anderson, Arlene" <Anderson.Arlene@epa.gov>, "Gould, Stephen" <Gould.Stephen@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: PFOA in Hoosick Falls and other places nearby

FYI

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Romanowski, Larisa" <Romanowski.Larisa@epa.gov>
Date: January 4, 2016 at 8:55:17 AM EST
To: "Simon, Paul" <Simon.Paul@epa.gov>, "Pabst, Douglas" <Pabst.Douglas@epa.gov>, "Evangelista, Pat" <Evangelista.Pat@epa.gov>
Cc: "McGowan, Michael" <McGowan.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: PFOA in Hoosick Falls and other places nearby

Please see correspondence below.

From: Romanowski, Larisa
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 8:50 AM
To: 'd hassel'
Subject: RE: PFOA in Hoosick Falls and other places nearby

Mr. Hassel,

Thanks very much for reaching out to us.

I will share your contact information with the folks here who are researching the issue and will keep you posted on any new developments on our end.

Regards, Larisa

Larisa W. Romanowski

Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region 2 Hudson River Field Office

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Albany, NY 12205

(518) 407-0400

romanowski.larisa@epa.gov

From: d hassel

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Sent: Sunday, January 03, 2016 12:00 PM

To: Romanowski, Larisa

Subject: PFOA in Hoosick Falls and other places nearby

HI

I saw your name at the end of a letter to the Hoosick Falls Community and a note that you were continuing to collect information about the PFOA problem. I was chief Engineer of the R&D division at Oak Materials in Hoosick Falls in the late 70's and early 80's. My office was in the same building as the coating towers in Hoosick Falls. I also designed and built the towers used at that time for coating fabric and coating yarn and thread with PTFE. I didn't know at the time that there was PFOA in the coating mix. Some of our chemists might have, but as far as I can find out no one, including the EPA or DEC knew it was both toxic and persistent in the environment

until about 2005. The PFOA was a left-over chemical from making the PTFE. It was removed when the PTFE was sold as dry powder, but left in when it was sold to coat fabrics or frying pans or other products, since it aided the coating process. Your letter had a technical error. You used the properties of the acid in your letter. The PFOA was not added to the mix as an acid, it would have changed the PH too much. It was added as an ammonium salt(APFO), which is a solid when not dissolved in the mix. I'm not sure of the exact process the salt goes through in leaving the fabric at high temperature, but if it was dried out on the fabric as the water was evaporated, it would have been present as a solid with a fairly low sublimation temperature and also a low decomposition temperature, so that maybe about 90% of it would be broken down by heat on the way to the exhaust stack. I would guess that most of it is in the water as an ion from the salt, not as the original acid. The testing methods do not differentiate the source of the ion, since in water it disassociates whether it was added as acid or salt, and it's only the ion that's being detected by the chemical analysis of the contaminated water. I'm a mechanical engineer, not chemical, but I had to learn all this kind of stuff on the job. The DuPont patents and process notes spell most of this out rather well.

In the coating process, the PTFE was left on the product, and the PFOA was evaporated off along with water and another dispersant, Triton X-100. All of the coating solution except the PTFE was sent into the local air and water through several different routes. There was also more than one plant in Hoosick falls using large quantities of PFOA containing PTFE coating solutions. I have the company phone directories from that era as well if you want to track down people to do blood testing and medical records. Most of the 100+ people on the list had offices at McCaffrey St. , the epicenter of the biggest PFOA contamination.

By my estimate, many tons of PFOA were dumped into the environment in Hoosick falls from about 1955 until 2008, when the industry quit using it. Unless they prevented their current technical people from investigating it, St Gobain knows exactly where it came from. They have published reports on exactly how and how much PFOA gets into the air in a plant they own in Ireland which makes PTFE coated glass fabric(See attached. You have it but might not have looked at it yet.) . The report calls it a "sister plant" to the ones in the United States. DuPont patented the use of .2-.4% PFOA in making the PTFE dispersion used to coat glass fabrics in 1951. By 1961 use of PFOA was the standard method. By 1968, the patent expired so all the other companies such as ICI making PTFE dispersion for coating fabrics could use it also without a license from DuPont. During the time I was there, PTFE coated materials were made in quantity at Fluorglas in Hoosick Falls at two locations: McCaffrey St. and John St.. Identical coated fabric was made at Taconic plastics at 136 Coon Brook Rd, Petersburg, NY ; and Chem-Fab at 1030 Water St in N. Bennington. All used the same process, none had emission controls.

Some of this I know from memory, some from records I kept, including tower operation records, and some from recent research into the patents and coating process. I've got lots of references and documentation to support everything I'm saying here.

While I don't feel responsible for the PFOA contamination in Hoosick Falls, since it was started decades before I worked there and neither the industry or government even

hinted that it might be toxic back then, I do feel a responsibility to help you to do something about it, especially since the current owner, St Gobain, seems to be trying to hide the source and slow down your investigation.

Feel free to call or write and I'll answer any questions you have to the best of my ability. My first wife, Barbara Plecan, who died in 2005 of MS, was involved in environmental issues in NYS all her life and knew Judy Enck. I was her photographer when she was a part time reporter for an environmental Newspaper, "The Link". We were pleased when Judy moved up, since we saw her as a person with the right attitude towards the job. I guess that's another reason I'm willing to help all I can. David

Hassel

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